

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9 remain pending and under substantive examination in the present application. No claims have been amended or cancelled.

Amendments to the Specification

The present application is a continuation-in-part of US Serial No. 10/294,205, filed November 14, 2002, as evidenced by the Utility Patent Application Transmittal form filed with the present application, and as acknowledged by the official filing receipt mailed February 24, 2004. By the foregoing Amendments To The Specification, a new paragraph containing the required information concerning related US patent applications has been added to the present specification, immediately after the title.

Provisional Double-Patenting Rejection

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9 have been provisionally rejected, under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over Claim 1-49 of co-pending, co-owned US Serial No. 10/294,205, in view of US Patent No. 6,267,864 (Yadeav, et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the present application is, in fact, a continuation-in-part of the aforesaid US Serial No. 10/294,205 and, therefore, cannot be considered prior art against the claims of the present application. In the foregoing circumstances, withdrawal of this rejection is hereby respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing discussion and amendment to the specification, it is believed that the rejection of Claims 1-9 set forth in the non-final Office Action has been overcome. Accordingly, re-examination and allowance of Claims 1-9 are hereby respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues which the Examiner believes could be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

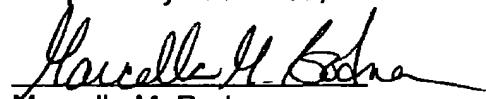
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No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this Amendment, since it is being submitted within three months after the originally set due date for response to the non-final Office Action. If, however, any such fees, including petition and extension fees, are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to **Deposit Account No. 18-1850**. In the meantime, please direct all future correspondence relating to the present application to the undersigned attorney.

Date: December 28, 2005  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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